

Medical Council of India/State Medical Councils to practice medicine in India.

High prices of AIDS drugs

3985. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of AIDS patients are unable to purchase the drugs prescribed by the doctors of AIIMS and other Government hospitals in the country due to high prices of these drugs;

(b) if so, the reasons for high prices of these drugs;

(c) whether generic equivalent to these medicines can be manufactured by the Indian companies;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to provide subsidy on such medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) No, Sir.

(e) Government of India provides funds to State AIDS Control Societies for the treatment of opportunistic infections to HIV/AIDS patients in public sector hospitals. All such drugs are being manufactured in the country.

Neglecting Homoeopathic Industry

3986. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are neglecting the homoeopathic industry;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the details of steps taken by Government to encourage the homoeopathic industry in the country by conforming to Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP)?

[23 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Recently, Schedule 'K' of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 has been amended to provide exemption facilitating sale of 49 commonly used homoeopathic and bio-chemic tissue medicines in allopathic pharmacy also. This will provide wider outlet for sale of homoeopathic medicine.

(c) Good Manufacturing Practices in Homoeopathy are governed by Schedule M-1 of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945. State Licensing Authorities are required to ensure compliance of Good Manufacturing Practices.

NAM Health Ministers' Conference in Johannesburg

3987. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India suggested in the NAM Health Ministers' Conference in Johannesburg that developing countries should give each other legal and administrative support to produce and market drugs to each other at reduced prices;

(b) if so, the response of the other countries thereto;

(c) what are the details of steps taken or proposed by Government for producing essential drugs at reduced prices in the country; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) During the NAM Health Ministers' Conference in Johannesburg on 26-27 March, 2001, there was general consensus that developing countries should have access to essential medicines at an affordable cost and that cooperation among developing countries for this purpose was of great relevance.

(c) and (d) The Drug Prices Control Orders are issued by the Department of Chemicals and Petro-Chemicals under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to implement the Policy in so far as price controls are concerned.

The Drug Policy, as amended from time to time, is directed